

Using Primary Sources to Interpret Life during the 1920s Primary Sources Analysis Guide PART I

Object or Document:

Observation

What do you see in the object? Describe everything you can about it - content, imagery, text, style, craftsmanship.

Analysis

Creator

Who created the object? What can you infer from the object about the purpose for which it was created?

Audience

Who was the object for? What can you infer from the object about its intended use?

America in the 1920s

What specific information about life in America during the 1920s does the object convey?

Interpretation

Based on the evidence of this object or document, what were some of attitudes, values, and beliefs of Americans during the twenties?

Ouestions

What questions do you have? What other kinds of information would you like to see in order to understand the context more thoroughly? Whose voices would you like to hear?

Adapted from Material Culture Analysis Guide – created by Gretchen Soren